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CIA information in State Department records

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*Copy from
William O. Bush*

12/13

I met today with Frank Machak and John Morse of FADRC in the State Department, regarding the State Department reply to a CIA letter about sensitive CIA information in State Department files.

We agreed that it is a real problem for the 1950-54 files, and it will have to be resolved before those records can be transferred to NARS.

With respect to the 1945-49 files, in my custody, I said that we had two options:

- (1) Continue to follow our current procedures, or
- (2) Go through the purport cards for 101.61 - 101.6102 to identify all the sources of the documents and all the cross-reference file numbers, insert withdrawal notice cards for the corresponding source cards and cross-reference cards, and make certain that the documents filed under the cross-reference numbers are also withdrawn.

The problem with option 2 is that it would be a very costly project, and not all of the information on those cards--or the documents--requires continued protection for national security reasons.

I told them that in March 1976 the CIA had been satisfied with option 1, as the attached correspondence indicates. I think that the reason the issue has been raised now by CIA is because new personnel in CIA working on its records problems, who enjoy close contacts with NND personnel (which has spent several months studying this problem), have been unaware that the problem had been resolved previously to CIA's satisfaction.

I gave Morse and Machak copies of my correspondence with CIA (attached), and I assured them that my staff would again be reminded of our current procedures:

- (1) Boxes 79-86 of the 1945-49 file cannot be given to researchers.
- (2) Purport cards for 101.61 - 101.6102 cannot be given to researchers.
- (3) Source cards for the Central Intelligence Group and the Central Intelligence Agency (both from and to) cannot be given to researchers.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

16 MAR 1976

Mr. Milton O. Gustafson
Chief, Diplomatic Branch
Civil Archives Division
National Archives and Records Service
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

Permit me to express the appreciation of this Agency for the concern shown and the assistance rendered in the course of examining potential problem areas for this Agency in the indices of Records Group 59. As you know, the particular instance raised by researcher Selma Rein's request for classification review of one sensitive document had caused considerable worry over what other sensitive references might exist in the indices.



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"...an examination by a qualified CIA officer of the many trays of State Department index cards relating to CIA and of the actual documents themselves in an effort to screen the most sensitive documents would not be justified. I say this because the procedures which Mr. Gustafson explained to me seem fully to protect our interests. As I understand these procedures, a researcher who identifies a document from the cards (which are now available to the public) can only get that document if it

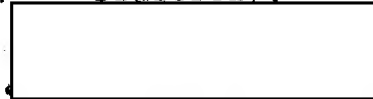
*Does this in conflict
with next sentence?*



is still classified--and most appear to be--after it has been reviewed by qualified personnel in his office and, ultimately, by CIA. The cards and documents are maintained in a vaulted area and only persons with appropriate security clearances in the employ of NARS, the Department of State or CIA have direct access to the files."

We recognize that other such problems could exist in RG 59 and the indices thereto. However, we feel confident that future problems can at least be contained by exercise of common sense and good judgment by you and your colleagues at Archives. We feel certain that this confidence is well placed. Meanwhile, we are prepared to assist in any appropriate way should questions arise.

Sincerely,



Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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State Files
Separate are the
"226" Records group No put on
by NARS -
These are the RFA BR records
of the SS records which were
Transferred to State by E.O.
in 1945 (1 out) Truman period
Rest of information of SS went to SS

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Next 9 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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